

**Camden Opera House Committee  
Minutes of Meeting, June 22, 2009  
Tucker Room, Camden Opera House**

Chairman Hal Owen called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. In attendance; Stephanie Woodman, Select Board Liaison Karen Grove, guest Susan Dorr, Don White, Opera House Manager Kerry Hadley, Facilities Manager Dave Morrison and Jean Belair.

The minutes of the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as presented. Motion by Belair seconded by Woodman.

The committee voted Owen the committee chair for the next fiscal year, White will continue, as Secretary and White will be Vice Chair when Owen isn't available to chair a meeting and at that time Morrison will take minutes.

Select Board Liaison Grove suggested that the committee meet in the evenings to allow any member of the public to attend. The committee moved on a motion by White, seconded by Woodman to meet every other month at 5:30 pm starting in September. The meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

Manager Kerry Hadley reviewed the 09 fiscal statuses. Bookings were up 15% but revenues were down slightly but were \$6,000.00 above the projected amount. In the expense area, Hadley said it appears they will be a little over what they budgeted. Bookings for the 2010 fiscal year are steady, interest is high. Economic conditions are affecting bookings and as an example, the Literary Festival in an effort to scale back their expenses based on past year's attendance figures will be using the Washington Street meeting room and the auditorium in November, rather than the auditorium for the whole weekend. Hadley also reviewed trends and noted that the Strand Theatre is now showing live theatre feeds from the National Theatre of London; the Rockport Opera House/Town of Rockport has hired Chris Shrum to both fundraise for town projects (which will include improvements to the Opera House) and also write a business plan for them; and the Bayview Street Cinema does plan to reopen under Stuart Smith's ownership and Ben Fowlie as manager to run mini-film festivals this summer. They are in process of obtaining a beer/wine license. All of these will serve to further fracture the market of available people to attend events. Hadley noted that fundraising is necessary and important in order for us to keep up with these other venues.

Hadley also reviewed her list of potential Opera House productions for 2009/10 season. Input was provided, including some from Susan Dorr regarding how interesting Tim Sample was at the recent Maine Arts Commission Event, and that he might be valuable in the future for either Windjammer Weekend or to host other events.

Under old business Hal requested that the Camden Civic Theatre letter from Paul Weintraub addressed to Kerry Hadley be entered into the official minutes of this meeting. The letter was very complimentary about the management staff's handling of recent CCT rescheduled events. The committee agreed.

White requested that the contact information sheet of committee members be updated. Hadley explained that the move to add two committee Alternate slots is in process. The Select Board will approve the Alternate slots as candidates are brought forward. Susan Dorr is one of the candidates.

Hadley reported that she is writing grants – one to finance a grant writer's position for the Opera House the other for capital improvements to the third floor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM. Respectively submitted Don White, Secretary